

# Border Eagle

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Jan. 9, 2004

## 84th FTS flies its last Tweet

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
Public affairs

Members of the 84th Flying Training Squadron marked a special event Wednesday as they flew the T-37 Tweet for the last time.

Capt. Mat Weaver, G-Flight commander, along with his student pilot 2nd Lt. Matt Maiorano, conducted the final student sortie, signifying the end of the T-37 era in the 84th.

As the squadron's last T-37 flight commander, Captain Weaver said he felt honored to be chosen to fly the final student mission in the aircraft.

"It's neat to finish out my time as a [T-37] flight commander by flying the 84th's last Tweet flight," he said. "It was a little challenging in closing down the operation because the squadron's other five flights had

See T-37, page 4



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

**Second Lt. Matt Maiorano, 84th Flying Training Squadron student pilot, prepares for take off in a T-37 Wednesday. Lieutenant Maiorano and Capt. Mat Weaver, 84th FTS G-Flight commander, were the last people to fly a T-37 in the 84th FTS.**

## Fitness testing begins at Laughlin

By Tech. Sgt. Anthoy Hill  
Public Affairs

A select group of Air Force members will have the first chance to take the new fitness test that begins this month.

Anyone in the weight and body fat management, self-directed fitness improvement and monitored fitness improvement programs will test within the first 30 days.

Guidelines have been sent out in regards to when people entered certain programs, which dictate when they will test, said Bill Goins, Laughlin's exercise physiologist and fitness pro-

gram manager at the Health and Wellness Center.

This month's group could also include those who did not take their ergometry test last year. "A wing-level decision will be made whether those people will test during their birth month or during this first 30 days," said Mr. Goins.

Having everyone else at Laughlin test during their birth month is currently the leading option, according to Mr. Goins, because it's easier to spread out in case people don't do well and need to attend classes or see their health care provider.

In the meantime, Mr. Goins of-

fered a few basic steps to help people get on track with the new fitness program.

"First, people should understand this is an assessment, not a pass or fail test," he said. "People should not be preparing for the test, but for their [good] health."

The exercise physiologist pointed out that people with good or excellent results from the test show they are at low risk for health problems. But, he cautioned results in the yellow or red categories indicate people are putting themselves at a moderate or high risk for health concerns such as

See Fitness, page 6

### Newslines

#### MLK luncheon set

The Black Heritage Committee is holding a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. remembrance luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 16 at Club XL. The keynote speaker will be Chap. (1st Lt.) Kenneth Fisher.

For more information, call Joni Jordan at 298-5914 or Master Sgt. Gerald Norris at 298-5991.

#### Promotion party set

Laughlin's two newest lieutenant colonels would like to invite everyone to a lieutenant colonel-select party at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 16 at Club XL. There will be free food and beverages until the tab runs out.

#### Medical group to close

The 47th Medical Group will close from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 20 for a group commander's call.

All clinics will be closed and the Nurse Triage Line will not be available. Radiology, the laboratory and the pharmacy will also be closed. The Tricare Service Center will be open. If you have a medical emergency, report to Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room.

For other care, call (800) 406-2832.

### Deployment stats

Deployed:	45
Returning in 30 days:	13
Deploying in 30 days:	1

### Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

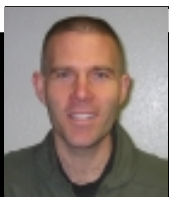
Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -2.79	T-1, 1.47
T-38, 0.55	T-6, -2.53

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 91.6%	T-1, 84.4%
T-38, 84.5%	T-6, 91.0%

# Career success relies on service, professionalism



## Commander's Corner

By Col. Steven Kwast  
47th Operations Group commander

One of the most frequently asked questions I hear as a commander is, "What is the key to a successful career?"

The answer is simple: Keep in the front of your mind what military service means, and practice the simple rules your parents taught you when you were 5 years old.

It helps to start by remembering that military service is just that...service. If you have any expectations that the military owes you something, like a certain job, a certain decoration or a certain promotion, then you are setting yourself up for disappointment. The hallmark of a successful airman is one who serves his or her country without expectation of reward. The reward is getting to serve your country.

Thinking of military service as a privilege can take you halfway toward the goal of a successful career. The second half of the journey involves conducting yourself as a professional.

First, **be respectful** to others. Some people might say respect is a nebulous word that is hard to define and harder still to incorporate in an organization. I'll submit, however, that each of us has a crystal-clear image of this concept. How would you act if either General Jumper or Secretary of State Colin Powell walked through the door right now? I would wager to guess you would act

in a courteous, polite, helpful and humble way. You would act like a professional. This illustrates an easy way of taking the very complex idea of respect and making it simple. If you ever have a question about how you ought to act toward others, just act as you would if someone you admired and respected walked through your door. It doesn't matter if she is an airman basic, a civilian or the wing commander. We all deserve the same dignity and respect. It's a simple standard that your parents taught you when you were 5 years old.

Second, **maintain your integrity**. What I mean by integrity is that each of us examines our conscience and acts on what we know is the right thing to do in each situation. For example, you're with a group of your buddies in the break room. One of your friends makes an off-color joke. Conscience is that part of your character that tells you your friend was wrong. Integrity is that part of your character that compels you to act to eliminate that kind of unprofessional behavior even if it might cost your friendship. If you're ever unsure about what to do, just follow this simple rule: What would your most respected role model do in the same situation? If your role model would be ashamed of your action, or inaction, then you are probably compromising your integrity. If your parents would be disappointed in you, then you may not be acting with integrity.

Third, have **courage**. It goes without saying that it takes uncommon courage to risk your friendships, and sometimes your job, to do what is right. But we must remember that our mission is to create a combat ready force of professionals who produce airpower. That mission can never be accomplished if we don't treat each other with

**"Thinking of military service as a privilege can take you halfway toward the goal of a successful career.**

**The second half of the journey involves conducting yourself as a professional."**

respect and have the courage to maintain our integrity. It takes courage to hold each other to a higher standard, but that is what serving our country is all about. Service above self sometimes means putting the good of the Air Force ahead of our personal preferences. That takes courage.

Why will these three simple principles make for a successful career? Because these characteristics within the human spirit are the engine that makes an organization like the Air Force so great. It is these same characteristics that your leaders and commanders are looking for in you. If you develop and nurture these core characteristics in your personality, then any career aspirations you might have will take care of themselves.

Additionally, there are two secret weapons that help make these three characteristics more effective.

The first secret weapon is a **positive attitude**. In a very profound way, a positive attitude can equal success. As a commander I look for, and notice, attitude. It is a force multiplier when positive, and destroys the mission when negative. A positive attitude includes treating others with a sense of kindness, respect, dignity and forgiveness. It

See **Success**, page 3

## Border Eagle

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### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: **timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil** or **sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil**.



Take time  
to become  
a mentor

By Master Sgt. Gail Henderson  
47th Mission Support Squadron  
training manager

January 2004 has been declared National Mentorship Month by President Bush and both houses of Congress. During the month, organizations across the country will encourage people to thank their mentor and to continue the positive influence by getting involved in mentoring programs. I had to think about the question, "Who mentored you?" for just a second. Who made a powerful, positive, impact on my life...an impact that would make me who I am today? My mentor didn't have a high paying job or wear fancy clothes. He served in the Army not the Air Force. He was an unlikely mentor for most. He was an alcoholic; he made many mistakes in his life. Saying that, he also recovered and learned from his mistakes to be a great human being. He had inspired me to achieve success...success in my eyes not

in the eyes of others. He taught me that you should always be a person who could be counted on, a person whose word meant something, to step outside the mold of what society thought a person should be and be yourself. Who I am today in the Air Force and as a person directly relates to his guidance. You also can be a mentor. A mentor is a wise and loyal advisor (Webster 1951). A mentor is a person who oversees the career and development of another person, usually a junior, through teaching, counseling, providing psychological support, and protecting (Zey 1984). Laughlin Air Force Base and the Del Rio community have several opportunities for people to get involved. Please view the Laughlin Home Page at <https://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/mss/mentorship.html> for mentoring opportunities. If my mentor were alive today, he would be proud of who I have become. I'm a vehicle mechanic, training manager, wife and mother. I'm an airman, and I wear the rank of master sergeant. My mentor helped me to achieve all of this. Whose life will you impact be being a mentor?

Question of the Week  
Who was your biggest mentor?



Airman 1st Class Sarah Pino  
47th Flying Training Wing protocol  
assistant

"My grandmother. She taught me how to be a strong woman."



Airman 1st Class Jorge Rivera  
47th Operations Support Squadron  
air traffic controller

"My brother Gabriel. He led me on the right path. He gave me drive, hope and experience."



Airman 1st Class  
Quantrell Anderson  
47th Operations Support Squadron  
air traffic controller

"My uncle Mark. He taught me there is more than one way to do things."

**Success**, from page 2  
also includes accomplishing the mission with a sense of enthusiasm. The second secret weapon is **humility**. There is nothing more destructive to the mission than someone who thinks he is better than the rest. There is nothing more effective to the morale of a unit than when you give

others the credit. If we display an attitude that reflects the reality that we are no better than anyone else, then we sustain an environment where no one's worth is diminished and everyone is allowed to contribute. If these two secret weapons are sincere and applied to the three principles of respect, integrity, and courage, then you will be surprised at the sense of personal satisfaction you

get from being a professional airman in the Air Force. It's important to keep the perspective that a successful career is not measured by what job you get or what rank you obtain. A successful career is getting to serve your country with honor and dignity...simple to say, but hard to do – but you already learned that when you were 5 years old.



**Actionline**  
**298-5351**

**Col. Dan Woodward**  
47th Flying Training Wing commander

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been

solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate. If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline,

please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

<b>AAFES</b>	298-3176
<b>Accounting and Finance</b>	298-5204
<b>Civil Engineer</b>	298-5252
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	298-5299

<b>Clinic</b>	298-6311
<b>Commissary</b>	298-5815
<b>Dormitory manager</b>	298-5213
<b>EEO</b>	298-5879
<b>FWA hotline</b>	298-4170
<b>Housing</b>	298-5904
<b>Information line</b>	298-5201
<b>Legal</b>	298-5172
<b>MEO</b>	298-5400
<b>Military Personnel</b>	298-5073
<b>Public Affairs</b>	298-5988
<b>Security Forces</b>	298-5900
<b>Services</b>	298-5810

## T-37, from page 1

converted to the T-6 aircraft.”

With the introduction of the T-6 Texan II trainer Nov. 2002, the Air Force began the process of phasing out the Tweet. Laughlin has two T-37 flying training squadrons, the 84th and 85th.

“Laughlin is the first base to do the conversion,” Captain Weaver said. “So, the 84th is the first squadron to [complete] the conversion process.”

The captain emphasized the squadron is not the first to fly the T-6. Moody Air Force Base, Ga., initially stood up the T-6 aircraft without having to convert from T-37s, he said.

Now that the 84th’s process is complete, the 85th FTS is starting the conversion process.

“They start with their first T-6 students in March, and should complete the conversion by the end of the year,” Captain Weaver said. “They will be doing the same thing we did, which should happen a little more

quickly because we’ve paved the way for the conversion process. It should also be a little easier for them because there are T-6 pilots in the 84th to help.”

Laughlin currently has 25 T-37 and 25 T-6 aircraft that are actively scheduled. Once the conversion process is complete here, the T-37s will be flown to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and retired.

“The T-37 is a one-of-a-kind aircraft in terms of how long it has served and how many flights it has served through,” Captain Weaver

said. “It’s an old aircraft that entered service in 1956. For an aircraft to last that long gives credit to how tough it’s built. I have doubts that any trainer aircraft will ever serve again for that long.”

The captain added that the T-37 is a very basic aircraft with no frills, but fun to fly because of its control response.

“It was built to last,” he said. “But, most of all, a lot of guys will miss the simplicity of the T-37.”

**“The T-37 is a one-of-a-kind aircraft in terms of how long it has served and how many flights it has served through,”**

**– Capt. Mat Weaver,  
84th Flying Training Squadron  
G-Flight commander**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

## And the winner is...

**Col. Vic Hnatiuk, 47th Mission Support Group commander, awards Senior Airman Michael Osburn, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron firefighter, a basket of prizes for being the overall winner of the Christmas Yard Contest. Other winners include: 2nd Lt. Garret Limas for officer housing; Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos for enlisted housing; and Phyliss Limas for the trailer park.**

# Newslines

## Pharmacy expects delays

The 47th Medical Group pharmacy will begin installing new equipment today. The pharmacy will be open during its normal hours, but expect some delays in prescription operations continuing throughout January during the installation and testing period.

These delays will help ensure patients receive the correct medication and allow the staff to hand count medications prior to dispensing.

## Base housing office relocating

The base housing office is relocating to building 468 today. Walk-in service and limited telephone service will be available. Base housing officials ask to save routine and non-urgent matter until next week.

For more information, call 298-5003.

## Health care meeting set

The Health Consumers Advisory Council is meeting at 1 p.m. Jan. 16 in the wing conference room. The meeting is a forum for exchanging information among providers and consumers of health care at Laughlin.

For more information, call 298-6311.

## Christmas tree pick up set

Laughlin members wanting to dispose of their Christmas trees should place them at the curb in front of their unit for pick up during the first, third or last week of the month.

For more information, call 298-5488.

## Awards banquet scheduled

47th Flying Training Wing Fourth Quarter Awards and Banquet is set for 11:30 a.m. Jan. 21 at Club XL. All nominees should R.S.V.P. to Master Sgt. Laura Hopkins at 298-5707. Commander’s and distinguished visitors should R.S.V.P. to protocol at

298-4708 by Thursday. All others wishing to attend should contact their unit point of contact by Thursday. The meal selections are spicy chicken taco salad or Boston clam chowder.

Meal prices are \$7.00 for club members or \$9.00 for nonmembers

## Education offices moved

The Laughlin education office has moved to a temporary location at 450 Fourth Street near the base exchange and officer dormitories.

## TAP seminar scheduled

A transition assistance program seminar is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Family Support Center conference room.

Topics covered include Veteran’s Administration benefits, resume preparation and interviewing for success.

Personnel are encouraged to attend this class one to three years prior to their separation or retirement.

To sign up for the seminar, call 298-5620 by Jan. 16.

## AFRES should save med receipts

The TRICARE Management Activity is working to quickly implement enhanced Reserve Component medical benefits.

Some beneficiaries may incur health care costs before the Reserve Component Health Benefits Pilot program is implemented. For this reason, Reserve component members who are to be called to active duty or who are deployed in support of a contingency operation are encouraged to save health care-related receipts, claims and explanation of benefit forms for themselves and their families dating from Nov. 6.

This is necessary in the event that the sponsor is determined to be eligible for retroactive reimbursement from the Department of Defense. The TMA will communicate by mail with affected Reserve component members regarding eligibility definitions, information on covered health care services and the date that eligible sponsor and family members may submit claims and the required receipts for reimbursement.



# DoD stops anthrax vaccinations; maintains shots safe

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department will stop anthrax vaccinations until the legal situation around a recent court decision is resolved, DoD officials said.

Defense officials and lawyers with the Justice Department are examining a decision handed down by a federal judge in Washington Dec. 22 that ordered DoD to stop anthrax vaccinations for U.S. service members without their consent, Pentagon officials said Dec. 23.

“The lawyers are examining it,” Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon press conference Dec. 23. “And at the appropriate time, they will be making a recommendation as to the way forward.”

DoD still considers anthrax vaccinations for service members deploying to high-threat areas as crucial. “We don’t send soldiers into battle without helmets,” said a Defense official.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also stressed the military need for the vaccinations. “This drug that we’re using, the vaccine has been around for 40 years,” said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers during a press conference. “It is not experimental. It’s approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).”

“And from a military standpoint, I think it’s extremely important. As you know, when we went into Iraq, we had all the troops in their chemical protective gear, because we thought there was a very real threat of either chemical or biological weapons, and in particular, anthrax was a big worry.”

Anthrax is still a worry in many



Photo by R. D. Ward

**Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, holds a Pentagon press conference Dec. 23 to announce the Department of Defense's displeasure with a district court judge's ruling that the Pentagon must stop forcing service members and women to take anthrax vaccinations against their will. Winkenwerder insisted that the vaccine was not in any way experimental and had been shown to be effective against inhalational anthrax – the most deadly form of infection. He said it was the DoD's responsibility to protect its troops from the very real danger of weaponized anthrax.**

parts of the world, General Myers said. “The one thing you can do to protect people is this vaccine,” the chairman said. “From a military standpoint, I think it’s very important we have this capability to protect our troops and enable them to do their job.”

Dr. William Winkenwerder, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the vaccines are needed to protect American troops. The FDA guides everything the department does, he noted.

“We follow FDA regulations scrupulously in the use of the anthrax vaccine and all medically regulated products,” Dr. Winkenwerder said during an interview.

The FDA has licensed the product for all use, the doctor said. Other independent groups agree with the FDA assessment.

Dr. Winkenwerder said DoD was surprised about the decision. He said it was out of step with current science and out of keeping with the need for force protection.

The doctor said about 1 million American service members have received the vaccinations since the program started in 1998. Some 650,000

service members have received the six-shot series since June 2002. Of that number, only around 10 service members have refused to get the shots.

“Most people realize and appreciate the threat that we face and are persuaded by the scientific evidence regarding the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine,” Dr. Winkenwerder said.

The FDA approved the vaccine in 1970. The District Court decision questioned the FDA contention that the vaccine was effective against aerosolized anthrax – the most likely bioterror weapon.

This judge’s decision is counter to the FDA’s own decisions, the opinion of the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine and the judgment of the most eminent experts on this topic.

Winkenwerder stressed that the department’s paramount concern is for the safety of service members. The vaccine has been put through the most rigorous testing, he said.

The vaccine has very few side effects, similar to other vaccines, and these are mild and temporary, officials said.

## Commissaries respond to reports of mad cow disease

DALLAS – As concerns over beef safety grow, Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials said they have not received beef from Washington, where the first apparent case of mad cow disease was discovered recently.

“(Officials are) working with franchise partners and suppliers to ensure all beef AAFES uses is procured from sources other than Washington,” said Richard Sheff, food and theater vice president. “Food being served at AAFES facilities is purchased only from Department of Defense-approved sources.”

AAFES staff veterinarian/food and drug safety office maintains communication with the DOD veterinary service/Army surgeon general’s office to ensure procurement actions are based on the most current information available, officials said.

These efforts combined with other quality control measures “ensure AAFES’ customers receive food products of the highest quality,” Sheff said.

(Courtesy of  
Air Force Print News)



**The Air Force rewards good ideas with money.**

**Check out the IDEA Program data system at**

**https://  
ideas.randolph.af.mil  
or call Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mayo at 298-4355**

Fitness, from page 1

cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

“Everyone is supposed to exercise on a regular basis for their health,” he said. “The standards being used are health-based standards. So, they are not outrageous. Someone with a consistent, well-rounded exercise program should have no problem with the [new fitness program].”

For people who have a good, regular exercise program, Mr. Goins encourages them to continue what they are doing.

“If you currently exercise with the bike, add in a run once a week just to get used to the impact of running,” he said.

He also suggests starting on the bike for a week for people who do not have an exercise program, then

progress to the treadmill. “A definite progression needs to happen,” he added.

Mr. Goins emphasized that people need to make sure they have started doing some type of exercise.

“A lot of people may be happy the bike is not the primary test, and excited about the run,” he said. “There is a perception they will be able to just go out and [run]. The mile-and-a-half is a little farther than it seems. And, if you don’t do some form of regular exercise, you’re not going to just go out and do it.”

There is a misconception that you have to run to get better at running, according to Mr. Goins. He said there are two issues when it comes to getting better at any cardiovascular exercise.

“There is specificity with that exercise,” he explained, “meaning when

you run, there’s impact. You need to run to condition your hips, legs and other muscles and joints to take that impact.

“The other half of that is conditioning your aerobics system, your heart and lungs,” he continued. “You can do that by riding a bike, swimming or doing an aerobics class. You can push your aerobics system by doing other things. But, you need to run sometimes.”

The fitness center offers a variety of exercise classes and is planning to add more to help people stay on the course of good fitness. To stay abreast of the current Air Force fitness requirements, visit [www.af.mil/news/USAF\\_Fitness\\_Charts.pdf](http://www.af.mil/news/USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf). People can also contact their squadron physical training leaders for fitness help or information.

Fitness Tips

- Maintain a consistent exercise program
- Run two to three times per week on nonconsecutive days
- Push your aerobics system by varying your cardiovascular exercises
- Run outdoors on a regular surface to condition yourself for the impact
- Beginners should start on a bike for one week to condition muscles

# Officials may improve commissary benefits

By Rudi Williams  
*American Forces  
Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Finding ways to improve commissary benefits tops the Defense Department’s list of things to do to enhance quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

But when DoD officials announced they were studying the variable pricing concept being used by private-sector grocery stores and supermarkets, some media coverage painted an unfavorable picture.

“Variable pricing isn’t the ‘poison pill’ for commissary benefits some media articles have indicated,” said John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for mili-

tary community and family policy.

“Variable pricing is a technical term used in the grocery industry,” he said. “All it means is not every item is marked up by the same amount to produce a profit. By law, everything currently sold in commissaries is marked up 5 percent above cost.

“So variable pricing isn’t that evil animal in the shadows that it has been painted to be,” Mr. Molino said. “But remember, we’re not implementing variable pricing. We are simply studying the concept.”

He emphasized that DoD officials are studying the concept to determine whether it will work in the commissary system and benefit customers.

“If the study says it won’t

work in commissaries, we won’t go down that path,” he said. “But if it has the potential to provide a better benefit, we’re going to ask Congress for permission to go there.”

But, DoD officials will go there only if variable pricing does not erode the 30 percent savings customers enjoy now, he said.

There are even bigger savings on some items. Defense Commissary Agency buyers often negotiate to get money-saving deals with distributors and food suppliers, officials said. Customers reap the benefits when they purchase things that are put on shelves boasting a little sticker that reads “best value item.”

“That means they’ve negotiated a price that’s rock bottom, and they challenge you

to find that item cheaper anywhere else,” Mr. Molino said.

Once a price is negotiated, the commissary still has to sell the product at 5 percent above cost, he said.

The 5 percent surcharge goes right back into the stores, paying for new construction, renovations, repairs, equipment and information-technology systems, such as checkout counters and cash registers.

“Before 2001, we were bleeding some of the surcharge money into commissary operations,” Mr. Molino said. “We stopped doing that because we want to guarantee that the surcharge, which is servicemember money, is re-invested in the commissary.”

Operating expenses are paid out of about \$1.2 billion of taxpayer dollars appropriated by Congress. Tax dollars pay civilian employees’ salaries and for such things as butcher’s uniforms and meat-packaging materials.

“We’re trying to ensure that every penny of taxpayer dollars is well spent, and that taxpayers get the best value for their tax dollars,” Mr. Molino said.

Many customers question why commissaries do not have special sales comparable to local supermarkets, Mr. Molino said. The strict 5 percent surcharge prevents commissary managers from reduc-

ing items below that amount, he said. For example, if local supermarkets have chicken on sale for 39 cents per pound and the commissary’s price is 59 cents per pound, the law prohibits managers from cutting the price to 39 cents to match the supermarket price.

The grocery industry also uses variable pricing to build customer loyalty.

“The motive of those stores is profit,” Mr. Molino said. “The motive of our stores is to keep it a 30 percent savings to the customer. We’d like to make the commissary benefit more attractive to people who otherwise don’t shop there – especially our young members and military families on a tight budget.”

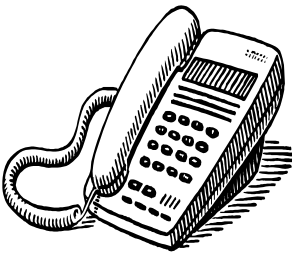
So, even if the variable pricing concept was implemented, it would not affect the savings servicemembers get in their grocery cart, Mr. Molino said. But he added, “You might save more on one item and a little less on another.”

Mr. Molino said DoD officials are concerned about people who do not shop in commissaries because it is more difficult to get onto installations since Sept. 11, 2001.

“We want to be able to adjust the pricing so that we can attract them to our stores,” he said.

Need the latest Laughlin information?

Call Laughlin's Information Line at 298-5201.







All photos were taken during the wing run Monday.



## Welcome back...

*Laughlin rings in new year with base fun run*

**Story and photos by**  
**Airman 1st Class**  
**Timothy J. Stein**  
*Editor*

Laughlin members rang in the new year with a 1.8 mile run Monday on the flightline. "With the new fitness

policy in effect, a base run is a great way to get everyone's minds thinking about physical fitness in the new year," said Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander.

Contests conducted during the run included indi-

vidual races for men and women and a team. Second Lts. Dan Schreck and Sandie Ramsey, both of the 86th Flying Training Squadron, took first place for the men and women. The 47th Mission Support Squadron took home the team award.





# Laughlin deployees help out in Iraq

## Nine services members help keep everyone fed, fit, entertained

**By Senior Master Sgt. Gene LaDouce**  
*506th Air Expeditionary Group public affairs superintendent*

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – A seven-day work week, no chance for off-base tours or leisure travel, and a supply system consisting of convoys of trucks subject to attack are not common obstacles at most military installations.

But Kirkuk AB isn't just any installation and the 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron isn't your typical services organization. Adopting the slogan "Not without us," 98 airmen (including nine from Laughlin) and 11 soldiers routinely take on the daily challenge of keeping the people assigned to the installation fed, fit and entertained.

"You can't sustain a long-term forward presence and world-class combat capability...without bringing services professionals to the fight," said Maj. Bob Marasco, 506th ESS commander. "We aren't the actual trigger pullers, but we feel we enhance the capabilities of those that drop the bombs or do the shooting by making sure they are well fed, recreated and fit to fight."

Since Aerospace Expeditionary Force Silver arrived in mid-October, the 506th ESVS team has served about 160,000 meals and stockpiled

more than 800,000 liters of water and 22,000 meals-ready-to-eat with a value of more than \$2 million. In addition, they've awarded more than \$5,700 in prizes during various events.

Through the fitness and recreation centers, dining facility, cyber café and other facilities and services, the squadron's personnel strive to meet the needs of those deployed here.

"I think our major success is the outstanding food coming out of the dining facility every day," said Major Marasco. "That's especially true of the holiday and birthday meals prepared by our joint team of Air Force and Army chefs."

The squadron also prides itself on providing recreational opportunities for airmen and soldiers.

"Our recreation folks opened the vault on many programs to give as much back to the troops as possible during casino and bingo nights and by creating new programs like Survivor Challenge," explained Major Marasco. "We've also expanded our resale items to new levels by going down to Al Udiad (Qatar) and seeking out things troops like and bringing them up here."

Praise was easy to find on the efforts of the squadron during the holiday season.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Wieland*

**Master Sgt. Ricky Harting monitors the pushups completed by a competitor in a recent pushup competition at Kirkuk AB, Iraq. Sergeant Harting is one of nine people deployed to Kirkuk from the 47th Services Division.**

"Despite everything Mother Nature can throw at us, the silver services team has continued to improve," said Senior Master Sgt. Ben Hoover, 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent. "If anyone is going hungry at Kirkuk, it's by choice. It's all about leadership and enthusiasm; you see it every time you walk in the dining facility – the staff are all smiling and happy about being there and giving us the best food and recre-

ation in the [area of responsibility]. It's an honor to share the field of battle with these warriors."

First Lt. Richard Baysinger, 506th Air Expeditionary Group plans officer, agrees the efforts of the services squadron during the holidays are noteworthy.

"Despite their many challenges, they've done an awesome job. From the food, to fitness opportunities, to special events, it's all good," he said.

# Second language just what doctor ordered

**By Capt. Carrie Clear**  
*447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs*

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Iraq – Imagine how frightening it must be to lie in a hospital bed and not be able to understand the people taking care of you. Now imagine how frustrating it would be if you are the doctor or nurse

trying to care for patients who cannot tell you where they hurt.

A call went out recently for anyone who spoke Bulgarian or Russian to help medical professionals at the 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron here. They needed to gather information from three Bulgarian soldiers who were injured when a suicide bomber

drove a fuel truck into their building.

Airman 1st Class Eyal Filkovsky, of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group, answered the call. He learned Russian as a child.

"My parents emigrated from Russia to Israel, where I was born, then to the (United States) when I was 7. I grew up learning Russian and translated for

my grandparents," he said.

Upon his arrival, Airman Filkovsky was whisked into the tent to gather information the doctors needed to treat their patients.

"I was pulled in several directions at once," he said. "The doctors said to tell (the Bulgarians) they would be OK and to get their names, date of birth and find out if

they had any medical allergies. Later they had me get their unit information and ask them how they were injured.

"You hear about things on the news but don't realize how real it is until you see it first hand," Airman Filkovsky said. "When you see the outcome, it makes you appreciate life more."

The *XLer*

**Frank Valdez**  
47th Communications Squadron

**Hometown:** Del Rio  
**Family:** Wife, Anita;  
son, Ricardo; daughter,  
Velma  
**Time at Laughlin:**  
Forty-one years  
**Time in service:**  
Forty-one years  
**Greatest accomplish-  
ment:** Having a fantastic  
marriage and family  
**Hobbies:** Going to the  
gym and doing handyman  
jobs around the house  
**Bad habit:** That is be-  
tween me and God  
**Favorite movie:**  
Any good drama  
**Favorite musicians:**  
Any and all kinds  
**If you could spend one  
hour with any person,  
who would it be?** John F.  
Kennedy



Courtesy photo

Chapel  
information



**Catholic**

*Monday - Friday* ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.  
*Saturday* ● Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation,  
4:15 p.m. or by appointment  
*Sunday* ● Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious  
Education, 11 a.m.  
*Thursday* ● Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian  
Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

**Protestant**

*Wednesday* ● Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant  
Women of the Chapel, 11:30 a.m.  
*Sunday* ● General worship, 11 a.m.,  
Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in  
building 351

**Chaplain Staff**

*Wing chaplain:* Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim,  
Roman Catholic  
*Senior Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast,  
Presbyterian Church, USA  
*Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack,  
Independent Christian Church  
*Protestant:* Chap. (1st Lt.) Kenneth Fisher,  
Evangelical Church Alliance

**For more information on other denominations, chapel  
events or services, call 298-5111.**

Check us out online...

Click on the Laughlin home page link for an electronic  
version of the Border Eagle or log on to:  
[http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/  
pabasepaper/index.html](http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/pabasepaper/index.html)



# CES defeats 86th, 13-7, in football championship

By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy J. Stein  
*Editor*

The 47th Civil Engineering Squadron defeated the 86th Flying Training Squadron, 13-7, to win the intramural flag football title Wednesday at the football field here.

The 86th came into the game needing two wins against the CES squad in order to take the championship because of the tournament's double elimination rules. They came up through the loser's bracket after losing to CES before Christmas. CES was undefeated during the tournament and only had to defeat the 86th one time. The 86th won the first game but lost the second.

The first game was a hard-fought match with the 86th making more key plays than CES. It started on the first drive when an 86th cornerback intercepted CES quarterback Michael

Hulcy's second pass of the night and returned it to CES's 30-yard line. The 86th wasn't able to get it into the end zone however and had to settle for a field goal.

CES wasn't able to get their offense going on the next drive either. They got one first down and had to punt. The 86th moved right down the field with quarterback Leron Hodgins hitting receivers for large gains. He then floated a 40-yard pass to Brian Dotson for a touchdown. An extra point brought the score to 10-0.

CE attempted to come back in the second half. Their defense held the 86th to only a few first downs and Hulcy was able to score a touchdown on a 7-yard run. The 86th's defense clamped down after that however and didn't allow CES to score again. The final score of the first game was 10-7 in favor of the 86th.

The teams took the field for the second game after a 10-minute break.

The 86th received the ball first but were forced to punt after three plays. Hulcy hit two receivers for gains of 5 yards each and then hit Brian Tonnancour for a 50-yard touchdown strike. CES went up 7-0 after making the extra point.

The 86th started their next drive on their own 19-yard line. They moved down the length of the field using up almost the rest of the half. Hodgins used a mixture of passes and runs to get his team down to CES's 3-yard line. From there he found Jon Karnes in the end zone for a touchdown. An extra point tied the score at seven.

CES received the ball first in the second half. Starting at their own 7-yard line, CES marched down the field. Hulcy completed several passes for over 20 yards while running for 20 yards himself before he found Matthew Burton on a 5-yard pass for a touchdown and a 13-7 lead. CES

missed the extra point attempt.

The 86th started their next drive from their 19-yard line. On the first play Hodgins went for a long bomb that was intercepted by Daniel Ruhl. CES now had a chance to forget the missed extra point and put the game away with a touchdown. They made a couple of first downs but were unable to score, giving the 86th another chance. The 86th couldn't capitalize however as they went four and out.

With time running out, the 86th knew they would have to stop CES on their next drive quickly and then score even quicker to win the game. They succeeded in stopping CES but only left themselves with one shot on their next offensive possession. An incomplete pass by Hodgins brought the game to a close. CES won 13-7.

The victory marks quite an accomplishment for CES. In the last year they have won the basketball, softball and football titles.

